



April 3, 2020

Wanted to give a shout out to the Covington Trial Office in Kentucky, led by Directing Attorney Dan Schubert, who spearheaded our effort in recent weeks. Our jail in Kenton County has been notoriously overcrowded for years. Last summer, we reached a peak of roughly 900 inmates. There are only 600 beds, which resulted in hundreds sleeping on thin mats on the floors, in unsanitary and unsafe conditions. The jail has never had less than 600 inmates since its inception.

On March 13th, 2020, we were sitting at 716 inmates. However, today, we're sitting at 409 current inmates, with a difference of 307 inmates released. This difference understates the true amount of inmates released (because it does not account for all the inmates who were arrested, booked, and subsequently released in the past 3 weeks (which was 223). In total, our office has helped release roughly 530 inmates from custody.

Fortunately, our clients benefited from a collaborative effort with our local prosecutor's office, who agreed to sign nearly every agreed order for non-violent and drug offenders. The willingness to release our clients certainly helped us at this time. But the greatest credit goes to a team of public defenders willing to put in the effort and work ethic necessary to make this happen.

Despite the critical work of public defenders in driving this result, local news and radio broadcasts totally omitted our efforts from the story and narrative. We were the defenders visiting our clients in the jails, learning their stories, connecting with their families, working overtime, and sifting through hundreds of bond conditions to determine candidates for release. While our job certainly isn't over, I'm so proud to be a part of this group, the work we have done, and the work we will continue to do.

Story provided by:

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Gideon's Promise Class of 2018

Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy, Covington Trial Office